Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

The Reply Brief filed on November 26, 2001 has been entered and considered. A

Response to Applicant's Remarks from the examiner is enclosed.

The application has been forwarded to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences for

decision on the appeal.

Madeleine Anh-Vinh Nguyen
Primary Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2622
January 17, 2002.

DETAILED ACTION

This communication is responsive to Reply Brief filed on November 26, 2001.

Response to Applicant's Remarks

1.   Applicant remarks that an administrative and diagnostic device 5 can retrieve data related

to reproduction apparatus use, feature utilization of the reproduction apparatus, paper

consumption, and error history and billing. Nowhere is it disclosed or suggested that data related

to the use of the apparatus or features of the apparatus is used to parse the error history and

billing data.

In addition to the previous arguments, it is noted that Allen teaches "in cases where

modem 4 is connected to a telephone system or private branch exchange (PBX) system, modem 4

may automatically place a service call, without operator intervention, when a diagnostic limit for

any internal production apparatus error code is reached. The reproduction apparatus initiated

remote diagnostic limit resides in non-volatile memory of the machine control and diagnostic

circuitry 2 and conventionally defines an unacceptable number of error occurrences in an

operating parameter of the reproduction apparatus." (Col. 4, lines 25-35). Thus, in case of any

error in the reproduction 1, the modem automatically sends information of the error occurrences

to the diagnostic and administrative device 5. Fig.5 is an exemplary diagnostic routine. In the

case of receiving a service call from the modem 4, based on the information sent from the modem

4, the diagnostic and administrative device 5 initialize status database, select symptom (100, 101)

using the first portion of the information. It then, based on the second portion of the information,

selects unit diagnose (102) and "If a symptom code is received, step 104, the diagnostic routine

jumps to step 105 which calls for a replacement or fixing of the unit." (Col. 5, lines 18-36). As

previously stated, the second portion can also be error history and billing data for diagnostic,

maintenance or repairing. Since the claimed invention is broadly claimed without limiting any

specific subject matters of the first and second portion of the first information, Examiner has the

right to have a broad interpretation based on the teaching of Allen.

2.   Applicant assumes that Allen has no need or desire to use multiple communication

protocols on the same communication channel.

It is clearly taught in Fig.1 that multiple communication protocols are used in the

communication between the reproduction apparatus 1 (first device) and the diagnostic and

administrative device 5 (second device) through the RS-232 interface (digital communication) or

through modem 4 (analog communication). The communication using modem 4 can be in

different public phone lines. For digital communication, Allen further teaches "It will, of course,

be appreciated that other similar computer system interfaces may be substituted for the RS-232

interface, although the RS-232 standard is preferred." (Col. 3, lines 41-44). Noted that the term

"RS-232 protocol" , "RS-232 format signals" are taught when RS-232 interface is used (col. 3,

lines 51-52, line 63, line 68). For analog communication, Allen further teaches that the public

phone lines are a standard (public) non-dedicated telephone line (col. 3, line 50), telephone system

or private branch exchange (PBX) system (col. 4, lines 26-27). It was commonly known in the

art that different communications have different protocols. For instance in case of RS-232

interface, RS-232 protocol is used; and of course, in case of a public phone line, a public phone

line protocol is used and in case of private branch exchange (PBX), a PBX protocol is used.

Thus, it is sufficient enough to consider that Allen teaches the uses of different protocols. In

addition, when using the terms "indirectly teaches" the uses of different protocols, the examiner

wants to state that although Allen does not specifically teach the use of different protocols but

through his teaching of using RS-232 protocol for the RS-232 interface, and the use of different

communications, we can conclude that Allen teach the use of different protocols.

3.   Applicant remarks that not only is a first portion of information used to do the parsing, but

the parsing of the second portion and the diagnosing are both performed by the second device.

Even if Allen and Hemmady could be combined, there would not be a single device which did

both the parsing and diagnosing as recited in the claims.

Allen teaches that the parsing of the first and second portions and the diagnosing are

performed in the diagnostic and administrative device 5 (a single device which does both the

parsing and diagnosing). Since Allen does not directly teach that the second portion is for

determining a format of the second portion, Hemmady is combined. Hemmady also teaches the

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used of different communications (col. 3, lines 23-36; col. 5, lines 9-51) within a plurality of end

user systems (EUSs), (Figs.2-3). In addition to what stated in the rejection, Hemmady teaches

that "Each particular EUS interface will define the protocol to effect delivery, the format of data

and control messages, and the physical path for control and data." (Col. 52, lines 43-45).

Hemmady further teaches different protocol identifiers for different protocols and different link

formats (col. 42, lines 53 - col. 44, line 23; col. 51, lines 47-67; col. 52, lines 43-47; col. 57, line

39 - col. 58, line 51; col. 62, lines 15-50). The reasons for combining Allen and Hemmady are

both of them teach a device connection to a plurality of devices using different communications

types (analog and digital communication types) with different protocols and formats.

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

Respectfully submitted;

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January 16, 2002